Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application, with additions and deletions being indicated by underlines and strikethroughs:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for directly coating a volatile gelatinous material for use in a high vacuum environment comprising:

applying a layer of volatile gelatinous material onto a solid substrate;

applying a stress absorbing polymeric layer of adhesive material to the surface of the volatile gelatinous material to inhibit evaporation and ~~allow~~ allowing it to ~~cure~~ dry as a coated substrate; thereafter

imposing a high vacuum upon the coated substrate; and

coating the stress absorbing polymeric layer of the coated substrate with an intended material by physical vapor deposition.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method for directly coating a volatile gelatinous material for in a high vacuum environment comprising:

applying a layer of volatile gelatinous material onto a substrate;

applying a stress absorbing polymeric layer of adhesive material to the surface of the volatile gelatinous material and allowing it to cure as a coated substrate; thereafter

imposing a high vacuum upon the coated substrate; and

coating the stress absorbing polymeric layer of the coated substrate with intended materials by physical vapor deposition, wherein said intended materials are dielectric layers formed in pairs of low and high index of refraction materials.

3. (Currently amended) A method for directly applying dielectric layers to polymer dispersed liquid crystal material for use in a high vacuum environment to form an electro-optic modulator comprising:

PAGE 7/12 * RCVD AT 8/19/2004 5:20:16 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:6503262422 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-28

applying a layer of polymer dispersed liquid crystal onto a substrate having an optically-transparent electrode on its surface;

applying a stress absorbing polymeric layer of adhesive material to the surface of the polymer dispersed liquid crystal; and

coating the stress absorbing polymeric layer with a plurality of layers of dielectric material by physical vapor deposition to form a mirror.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 wherein said plurality of dielectric layers have a reflectivity at a specific wavelength band at which the electro optic modulator operates.

5. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the stress absorbing polymeric layer includes a hardening agent.

6. (New) The method according to claim 5 wherein the hardening agent comprises oxide nano-particles.

7. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the volatile gelatinous material is polymer dispersed liquid crystal.

8. (New) The method according to claim 3 wherein the volatile gelatinous material is polymer dispersed liquid crystal.

9. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the intended material is a dielectric.

PAGE 8/12 * RCVD AT 8/19/2004 5:20:16 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:6503262422 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-28